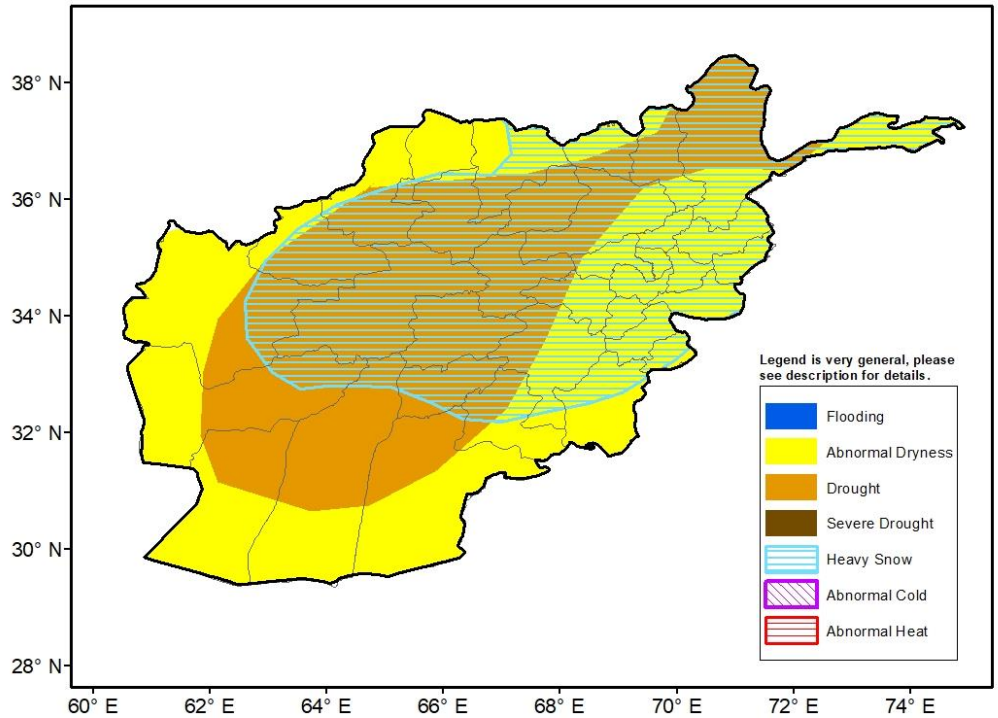
Climate Prediction Center's Afghanistan Hazards Outlook
March 11 – March 17, 2021

Temperatures:

Temperatures averaged well-above normal during the past week across Afghanistan, especially with respect to daily maximums. Average maximum temperature anomaly reached greater than 8°C in the center of the country. Minimum temperatures were less anomalous. Maximum temperatures average warmer than 25°C in the South. For the outlook period, temperatures are expected to generally be warmer than average across the country. However, a brief cold surge is foreacst to bring below normal temperatures and subfreezing conditons to northern states for a couple of days.

Precipitation:

Last week, light to moderate precipitation fell across the northern half of Afghanistan. Precipitation amounts (liquid equivalent) ranged from 10 - 25mm according to satellite estimates. While near-normal precipitation anomalies were observed in portions of northern Afghanistan during the past 30 days, large negative precipitation anomalies remained over the past 90 days. Abnormal dryness and drought hazards remain, where precipitation and snow water equivalent deficits persist. The precipitation deficits are expected to affect spring wheat planting which typically begins later this month. During the outlook period, heavy snow (> 25mm liquid equivalent) is forecast in northern and central Afghanistan due to the passing of 2 low pressure systems. The forecast increased precipitation should help ease dryness over struggling areas.



Note: The Hazards outlook map is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), and assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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